

association of autonomous astronauts

space:1999

10

★ *ten days that shook the universe*

JUNE 18th

See You In Space

The presentation at the Info Centre of propaganda and printed matter from the Association of Autonomous Astronauts (AAA) represents an overview of the AAA's Five Year Plan. Launched on April 23rd 1995, this plan aims to establish by the year 2000 a world-wide network of local, community-based AAA groups dedicated to building their own spaceships. However, this exhibition is just one perspective, created using archival material collected by Inner City AAA. Other Autonomous Astronauts may map their own histories, developing connections that are not depicted here.

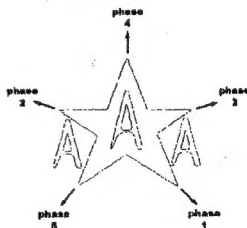
From the outset, the AAA's Five Year Plan was meticulously organised, with five distinct phases to the project - the launch, the information war, the dreamtime, the consolidation and the final push. These have demonstrated the possibilities for well-planned assaults against the state, corporate and military monopoly of space exploration. A wall installation features the declarations released for each new phase, positioned as planets around which connected material has been placed in orbit. A poster designed for the exhibition shows that the AAA logo features a five pointed star representing these phases, as well as indicating the several

directions at once that Autonomous Astronauts continue to move in.

To support the connections constructed within the wall installation, five AAA exit strategies are transformed into stars illuminating specific areas. These exit strategies have been collectively developed by Autonomous Astronauts. They also demonstrate that the AAA's idea of autonomy (and

Continued on back

THE FIVE YEAR PLAN



**MOVING IN SEVERAL
DIRECTIONS AT ONCE**

Stop Star Wars - military out of space

While film fans wait for the new Star Wars movie the real thing is already taking shape above our heads. Space technology is a key part of the military machine being used to destroy people and buildings in Yugoslavia and Iraq. And the US and other governments are actively planning to deploy new weapons in space capable of wreaking even more destruction on planet earth. Today the Association of Autonomous Astronauts are demanding that one of the key players in the space arms race - the Lockheed Martin corporation - hands over its resources to us for the development of peaceful, galaxy-friendly community based space exploration.

From the Blitz to the Moon

Space and military technology have always gone hand in hand. In the Second World War, thousands of people were killed in London and other cities by the Nazi V2 rocket. When the war finished, Werner Von Braun and the other scientists responsible for the V2 were given new jobs by the US government. The V2 technology was refined and served as the basis for both Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles (nuclear weapons) and the Apollo Space programme that sent people to the moon.

Satellites of death

A high proportion of the satellites launched into space serve military purposes. The 1991 Gulf War saw the US combine data from surveillance, meteorological and communications satellites to deploy its war machine with lethal effectiveness. It's been the same story in the current war on Yugoslavia. For instance, B-1B Lancer bombers have been used equipped with advanced cluster bomb units which use satellite navigation to detect and destroy targets (Guardian 3.4.99). Naturally this super-accurate space age technology hasn't stopped people being blown to bits in hospitals, houses, old people's homes, prisons and on bridges.

Star Wars - the sequel

Military satellites are only the start. The US Space Command (part of the US Air Force) is actively planning the deployment of weapons in space. According to General Joseph Ashy, commander in chief of the US Space Command (motto 'Master of Space'), „we will engage terrestrial targets someday from space. We will engage targets in space, from space“. In the 1980s Ronald Reagan's Star Wars programme was derided as a Cold War fantasy. Now the plan to deploy weapons in space to defend the US from missile attack is back on with the Ballistic Missile Defence programme. These defensive weapons could be quickly adapted to attack enemy satellites or targets on the ground.

Cassini - nukes in space

The use of lasers and similar weapons in space would only be feasible with powerful energy sources, and public opinion is already being softened up for nuclear powered weapons systems in space. In 1997 NASA launched the Cassini space probe to Saturn with 32.8 kg of radioactive plutonium on board. Fortunately this rocket did not blow up on take-off (unlike many recent launches), but Cassini is due to pass close to earth again in August 1999 with potentially catastrophic results if anything goes wrong.

Lockheed Martin

Today military and space technology are concentrated in the hands of the same big corporations. With Lockheed Martin, the two areas are even co-ordinated in the same section of the company - Lockheed Martin Missiles and Space, based in Sunnyvale, California. Lockheed have reaped millions of pounds from the US space programme as a key contractor for NASA. Today, LM Missiles and Space are involved in the space shuttle programme and the development of the International Space Station. At the same time they are continuing to develop Trident missiles, nuclear weapons currently

deployed by the US and UK governments in nuclear powered submarines in oceans across the world. Lockheed Martin UK is a major defence contractor for the Ministry of Defence, completing the installation of Tomahawk Land Attack Missiles on Royal Navy submarines just in time for their use in Yugoslavia.

AAA

The Association of Autonomous Astronauts is opposed to the commercial and military exploitation of space. We really don't think it's worth going through all the effort of getting into space just to live by the same rules as on earth. What attracts us to space exploration is the possibility of doing things differently. We are not interested in finding out what it's like to work in space, to find new ways of killing. We want to find out what dancing or sex feels like in zero gravity, to find new ways of living.

As part of the J18 global festival against corporate exploitation we demand that Lockheed Martin decommissions its weapon-making capability and hands over its resources to the AAA. We will be outlining our programme of community-based, galaxy-friendly space exploration in our Space 1999 festival, which starts today.

Space 1999 Festival of independent and community-based space exploration
June 18th - 27th, London Earth

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Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space:
e-mail: globene@afn.org
<http://www.globenet.free-online.co.uk/contact.htm>

J18 festival:
e-mail: rs@gn.apc.org
<http://www.j18.org>

UPCOMING SPACE 1999 EVENTS:

Friday June 18th:

1:30pm: Protest against the militarisation of space, part of the J18 global festival.

Venue: Asseble Green Park tube.

Saturday 19th:

Noon - 6pm: Intergalactic Conference

John Eden (Radio AAA) Conference Introduction

Professor Chris Welch (Lecturer in Astronautics, Kingston University) "The history of the British Interplanetary Society"

Paul Macauley (author of Pasquale's Angel and contributor to Interzone) "How the future should have been"

Mark Sinker (writer specialising in aesthetics, sex and the immediate future and currently working on 'The Electric Storm', a cultural history of music and technology 1876 - 1982)

"Home is where the heat is - when spacemen fall to earth"

Neil Gordon Orr (Disconaut AAA) "Everybody gets to go to the moon - next steps into space"

Zigi Sinnette (Missiles for Peaceful Purposes, member of UK Rocketry Association) "Build your own rocket"

Barry Bryant (Aotearoa AAA)

"Towards an everythingisation of stuff:

Pasifikan strategies for radical emigration"

Riccardo Balli (AAA Bologna) and **Gerard Z** (Grub Street 23) "333"

Dorothy Matrix (Future Excavations Inc.)

"Hostile environments"

Jason Skeet (Inner City AAA) "See you in space"

Plus AAA propaganda films and stalls.

Venue: University of Westminster, Marylebone Road, opposite Baker Street tube

£4/£3. Sponsored by King Mob

8pm til late: My Eyes...My Eyes presents ETC

(Extraterrestrial Cinema).

AAA films, presentations, installations and performances,

including **Lola Chanel** (AAA Vienna) "Women in Space",

Nomad AAA "This is my confession", **Disconaut AAA**

"Means of Flight - an alphabet for autonomous astronauts",

Laura Liverani "Mondo Astronauta - portraits of the AAA".

Films and video from **Tim Flitcroft**, **Deane Thomas**, **Lisa Dilillo** and more.

Presentations, installations and performances from Simon

Lewandowski, **Toolroom Salon**, **Seba Patane**, **Judy Sirks**,

Saul Albert and **Strike**. Live electronica and video mixing

from **Ticklish**. 'Deviate, decapitate, fornicate, fabricate'

performance by **Inventory**. Premiere of "Victims of

Geography" film by **Pictorial Heroes**. **DJs** including **DoA**.

Live web video streaming with **Backspace**.

(<http://www.backspace.org>)

Venue: **Strike**, 11-29 Fashion Street, E1.

Liverpool St/Aldgate East tube

£4/£3. Sponsored by **Pictorial Heroes**

Contact: 0181 858 5983 or

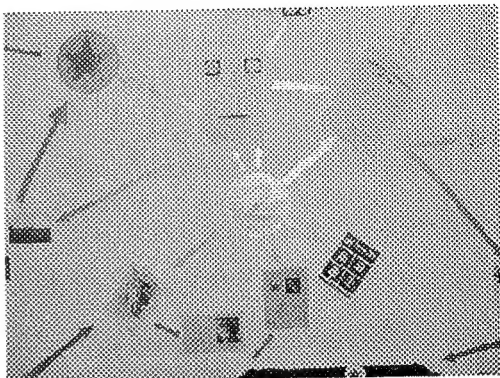
<http://www.myeeyes.dircon.co.uk>

the creation of autonomous communities in space) is part of a process of speculation on the possibilities that open up to us in space. The AAA has declared that there is no point going into space merely to replicate life on earth.

In the Info Centre shop, where AAA annual reports, newsletters and flyers are available, a media invasion board displays the results of the Space1999 effort at using the media for spreading our ideas. Space1999 has been organised by London based Autonomous Astronauts, and has demonstrated a collective energy capable of putting together a major ten day festival of independent and community-based space exploration. Space1999 is also creating its own media in the form of a daily newsletter that will be published by the Info Centre. This will include reports from events, festival updates, AAA texts and submissions. Each issue will be installed on a launch site at the Info Centre that counts down to the final day of Space1999 - a launch pad for reviews, assessments and future projections.

Autonomous Astronauts have explored various contexts for their ideas, and the propaganda material presented at the Info Centre includes an AAA 12 inch vinyl record and a CD with a recording of an AAA radio broadcast. Also included is an AAA propaganda video with edited highlights from various AAA events. The Info Centre reading table includes the latest newsletters published by AAA groups, some of which have been designed specifically for Space1999.

The Five Year Plan began as a simple idea - space travel for everyone. This idea has become more and more complex as different AAA groups have



joined the network and developed their own responses. This exhibition at the Info Centre traces the evolution of a simple idea into a social movement.

Info Centre

123A Mare Street, E8. London Fields BR.

"The Five Year Plan:

Propaganda and printed matter from the Association of Autonomous Astronauts."

Open daily from 1pm - 6pm throughout the festival.

Event updates, information and your input.

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